(b) whether the second Administrative Reforms Commission in its report has also recommended repealing the contentious Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and called for enabling legislation for deployment of armed forces in the northeastern States;

(c) if so, what are the other main recommendations made; and

(d) by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) The Second Administrative Reforms Commission in its Fifth Report on 'Public Order' has, *inter alia* made the following recommendations:

(i) A law should be enacted to empower the Union Government to deploy its Forces and to even direct such Forces in case of major public order problems which may lead to the breakdown of the constitutional machinery in a State. However, such deployment should take place only after the State concerned fails to act on a 'direction' issued by the Union under Article 256 of the Constitution. All such deployments should be only for a temporary period not exceeding three months, which could be extended by another three months after authorization by Parliament.

(ii) The law should spell out the hierarchy of the civil administration which would supervise the Forces under such circumstances.

(iii) Specific provisions to define organised crimes should be included in the new law governing ''Federal Crimes''. The definition of organised crime in this law should be on the lines of Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999.

The Report of the Commission has been received only recently and is being examined. 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects under the Constitution, consultation with the State Governments will also be necessary while forming any view on these recommendations.

(b) to (d) The Commission in the same report has also made certain recommendations in respect of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 and has referred to the report of Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy Committee in this regard. The recommendations of the Committee are being examined and a decision in the matter is yet to be taken.

Misuse of section 498 A

1768. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NRIs have complained against the misuse of Section 498A of the Dowry Prevention law by Police, to the Prime Minister and the President of India;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of 58000 cases filed under the provisions of the Dowry Prevention law 25000 were found fake;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a website 498.org. has also been established to make a case against the provision; and

(e) what steps Government are contemplating to make the law more balanced and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) Section 498A is a section of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and not the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Government has received a couple of representations from the Indians residing in foreign countries against alleged misuse of Section 498A of IPC by their wives etc. However, information in respect of complaints received from NRIs is not compiled separately.

(c) As per statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of cases reported under the Dowry Prohibition Act during the year 2005 were 3204, whereas, 3592 cases were reported during 2004. However, no separate information is available about the cases found fake out of the above.

(d) As per information provided by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, there is an NGO in San Francisco named 'Rakshak' which has established a website *http://www. 498.org.* and *http://rakshak.info.* for highlighting the problems of NRIs.

(e) The Government has been receiving representations from various quarters for amending Section 498A of the IPC. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 had, *inter alia*, a proposal to make Section 498A of the IPC compoundable, but the same was dropped by the Government on the request of women's organizations, to retain the effectiveness of this legal provision.

Foreign refugees living in country

1769. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign refugees living in various parts of our country and their socio-economic impact in the country;

(b) whether Government has any concrete policy in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) how are other countries dealing with foreign refugees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e), As per the readily available information, 1,83,920 foreign refugees are registered in India as on 31st December, 2006. Government of India did not sign 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees and 1967 Protocol thereon because it does not adequately address the situation faced by the developing countries. The convention also does not provide for a proper balance